ECHOMEDIA LONDON

ECHOMEDIA
alternative news-media...
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JAN 89...

IRA SHOOT CAR THEIF IN LONDON...

just before Christmas an IRA cell in London was uncovered when a local youth was shot while trying to steal the cell's car. The group immediately went on the run and disappeared. But they left behind a quantity of weapons and semtex.This incident far overshadowed all the others in police and media attention. About a dozen police raids on London Irish activists followed. These were very heavy .Dawn raids by cops in balaclavas carrying machine guns. With large numbers of police sealing off all streets around.About 6 people were held and questioned for 7 days under the prevention of terrorism act. One a teacher from Harringey has been charged with withholding information!!!

BLOODY SUNDAY MARCH....

Jan 28th...A few thousand people marched through London for the annual "bloody sunday march.The march has taken place every year since 1972 when british paratroopers opened fire on a march in Derry,Northern Ireland,murdering 14 people. The march was very lively but there was'nt much trouble except when a group broke away from the march chasing after a group of nazi's,amidst yells from the cops of "come back you bloody hooligans"....

BLACK LIBERATION FRONT.....

on Dec 21st came news of a series of parcel bombs sent to senior policemen and politicians in the West Midlands. The Black liberation front were blamed. This group has been actively attacking police in the West Midlands since the strangulation of Clinton McCurbin by two policemen in Wolverhampton two years ago. As for 'sons of Glendower' little is known about this group, and they are under attack by the established left (eg Searchlight, Lobster) for being a fascist front.It appears more likely that the left capitalists are trying to smear and destroy parts of struggle that they cannot contain

ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT.....

On the evening of Dec 20th '88 small incendiary devices ignited in four major department stores across the country. The store 'Dingles' in Plymouth was completely burnt to the ground. In 'Howells' in Cardiff the water sprinklers were set off causing extensive water damage. The other two caused only small fires in London stores before being found and extinguished.The next day another was found unignited in a third London store. Also found were four parcel incendiaries - one at a store in Birmingham,one each at the printer and publisher of 'Fur Review' and one atthe home of an infamous vivisector. All the stores attacked stock fur coats and most are owned by 'House of Fraser'. The only responsibility claim was to a Manchester local paper claiming a device in Manchester in another 'House of Fraser' store as by the animal liberation front. Two days later devices were found in stores in Manchester and Liverpool.

These attacks appear to be part of the campaign by the ALF to stop the sale of fur in this country. There have been over 50 such attacks in the last 3 years. Each time a small timer and firelighter is used to start a small fire in order to start the sprinkler system. The series include successful attacks on 'Allders' in Croyden in 1986. Water damage cost them over 1/4 million pounds and they stooped selling furs. In July 1987 attacks on 3 Debenhams stores caused over 1 million pounds damage and they too stopped selling furs. Since then there has been a media blackout on these attacks. But the Christmas attacks were given extensive media coverage.

A similar attack in Milton Keynes happened in Jan 89.The 'House of Fraser' store was severely damaged by fire. This action was claimed by the animal rights militia. This time there was a media blackout in all but local news.

FOR A LIST OF ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS - WRITE TO

S.A.R.P. BCM BOX 5911

LONDON.WC1N 3XX

A Tax That Attacks Us

FIGHT BACK NOW

TOTTENHAM AGAINST THE POLL TAX

Don't Register/Don't Collect/Don't Pay

c/o 72 West Green Rd N15

(802 9804 - messages)

TOTTENHAM 3 DENIED "RIGHT TO APPEAL"

On 12th December, Judges of the Court of Appeal announced the state's decision not to grant leave of appeal to Mark Braithwaite, Engin Raghip and Winston Silcott - the three hostages taken in response to the death of PC Blakelock. They described their convictions as "safe" - in other words the state feels the response to their show trial has been so pathetic that it does not need to stage another legal drama, as they had to do in the case of the Birmingham 6 (6 Irish hostages taken with equal disregard to evidence to intimidate the Irish working class).

The imprisonment of the Tottenham 3 was the high-point of the repression unleashed on the Broadwater Farm community following their outrage at the police murder of Cynthia Jarrett, and resistance to police invasion. This uprising in October 1985 followed quickly on the heals of similar insurrections in Brixton and Handsworth during the previous fortnight. The use of firearms and the death of PC Blakelock showed a new confidence amongst the inner city working class - and particularly amongst black youth. The state knew that unless they moved in with force, they would face major confrontations across the country. Broadwater Farm then underwent a state of siege - benefit giros were not delivered, homes were smashed open, clothes stolen, both children and adults kidnapped. Broadwater Farm was isolated through police terror. IT WAS A POLITICAL NECESSITY THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE CONVICTED FOR THE DEATH OF PC BLAKELOCK. The state could not admit that a policeman had been killed without a "guilty party" being found. Justice and legal procedure are merely the dramatisation of the exercise of state power. It is clear that the Tottenham 3 are innocent, victimised for reasons of convenience. However, even if the police had found some people directly involved in Blakelock's death, this would mean that we would have to redouble our efforts to gain their release.

The media hysteria built up around the Tottenham 3, and Winston Silcott in particular, has direct parallels with the nation-wide manhunt for Harry Roberts in 1966. Harry, with two other men, had been planning to rob a rent collector, when they were stopped by the police. They killed three policemen. The other two were soon arested but for three months Harry Roberts evaded arrest. Hundreds of police and even the army were mobilised, his face was plastered over the front pages of the national press and a businessman offered a fleet of aircraft to help in this national emergency. The boss class is always scared when we discover that policemen know how to die. They don't feel safe.

The framing of Braithwaite, Silcott, and Raghip along with the use of death squads in Gibraltar and elsewhere shows how ruthless they can be. We will only secure the release of the Tottenham 3 and the other hostages of the British state when our actions make them sufficiently frightened of the consequences of not releasing them.

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FROM HLO MANAGE...

PIRATE RADIO...

At the end of last year,many of the major pirate stations pulled the plugs and went off air in an attempt to capture one of the 20 "community" radio licences the state plans to creta sometime this year.To get a licence,a station will need about £50,000 (!) to set themselves up and anyone caught broadcasting after Jan.1st this year will be barred from applying.The only stations who'll benefit from the licences are the ones with big financial backing,who see it as a big breakthrough after years of applications to the home office and of course a good investment.

When the state's plans were made public attacks were carried out on pikates,not by the usual enemy thed.t.i. but by other pirates hoping to put their competitors out of action.These attacks have stopped as the stations have come off the air and bowed to the state's requests.'

Of course these minor changes have made no difference to most pirates who are still on air and realise that to get a licence you have to be prepared to be controlled and censured and to broadcast what the state dictates.....

Police terror attack on black OAPs

Mr Burke, aged 76, and Mrs Burke, aged 70, are still recovering from their recent ordeal at the hands of Hackney police. The elderly couple were dragged from their home and taken to Hackney police station where Mrs Burke was forced to undergo the indignity of a strip search. Their case has been taken up by their MP, Brian Sedgemore, who has called for criminal charges to be brought against WPC 210 Martin and PC 263 Hargreaves for the part they played in the attack on the Burkes.

TERRIFYING ORDEAL

On the evening of 15th January Mrs Burke was a passenger in the family car when it was involved in a minor road traffic accident. She duly reported the accident to the police. At the time, Mr Burke, who is disabled, was ill in bed. When police officers came to the Burkes' home they insisted on breathalysing Mr Burke.

Mr Burke was woken by the noise of police officers arguing with his wife and searching for the bedroom. In a sleepy daze he was dragged from his bed in his underwear and outside into a police van.

Mrs Burke was dragged from the house and pinned to the ground by police officers. She was then thrown into a police van and pinned to the floor with boots on her wrists and ankles. Both Mr and Mrs Burke suffered injuries in the attack.

At Hackney police station Mr Burke was not breathalysed and released without charge. Mrs Burke was forced to undergo a strip search and then charged with actual bodily harm on a police officer. She was released at about 12.15am on Monday 16th January.

On Tuesday 17th January the charge against Mrs Burke was dropped.

POLICE MISINFORMATION

Since the unprovoked attack on the Burkes' the police have employed their familiar tactic of misinforming the public of what happened.

Hackney police claimed they were acting on an anonymous phone call and had gone to the house to breathalyse the registered owner of the car. In fact, Mrs Burke phoned the police informing them of the accident.

Hackney police claimed there were only three police officers involved. In fact, a police inspector informed a family representative that at least 12 officers had been involved.

Hackney police claimed that a formal complaint had been made and they were unable to comment on the matter. In fact, the Police Complaints Authority phoned HCDA to ask if a complaint had been made after reading of the incident in the 'Hackney Gazette'.

MEDIA BLACKOUT

HCDA knew of the attack against the Burkes' within an hour of its taking place. Immediately we started to contact the media to let people know what had happened. Several journalists were interested in covering the story.

However, it would appear that the story was too hot to handle. Journalists for the national press and TV prepared their news coverage only for News Editors to sit on the story. Nobody was willing to stick their neck out and state how Hackney police had treated two OAPs. Thames News insisted on a statement by an MP to cover themselves. As no MP was available to make a comment the story was shelved.

FIGHTING BACK

Mr and Mrs Burke are taking out a civil action against the police for assault, unlawful arrest and unlawful imprisonment.

With the full support of th family, HCDA is campaigning fo the suspension and crimina prosecution of the officer involved in this polic operation. It is of grave concer to the community that polic officers should behave in such manner and not be hel accountable to the public. Chie Superintendent Mulvihill' assertion to the press tha "There is no question whatever o suspensions" only encourages th view that senior police officer are covering up for the malpractice of junior officers.

from Hackney Community Defence.

NAZI'S ON THE RUN....

Early January...several hundred people picketed outside a shop selling nazi regalia and well known for it's fascist connections, in London's Carnaby street, centre of tourist garbage. Alot of noise was made and several small groups of nazi's were chased out of the area. No arrests.....

LEE HOUSE

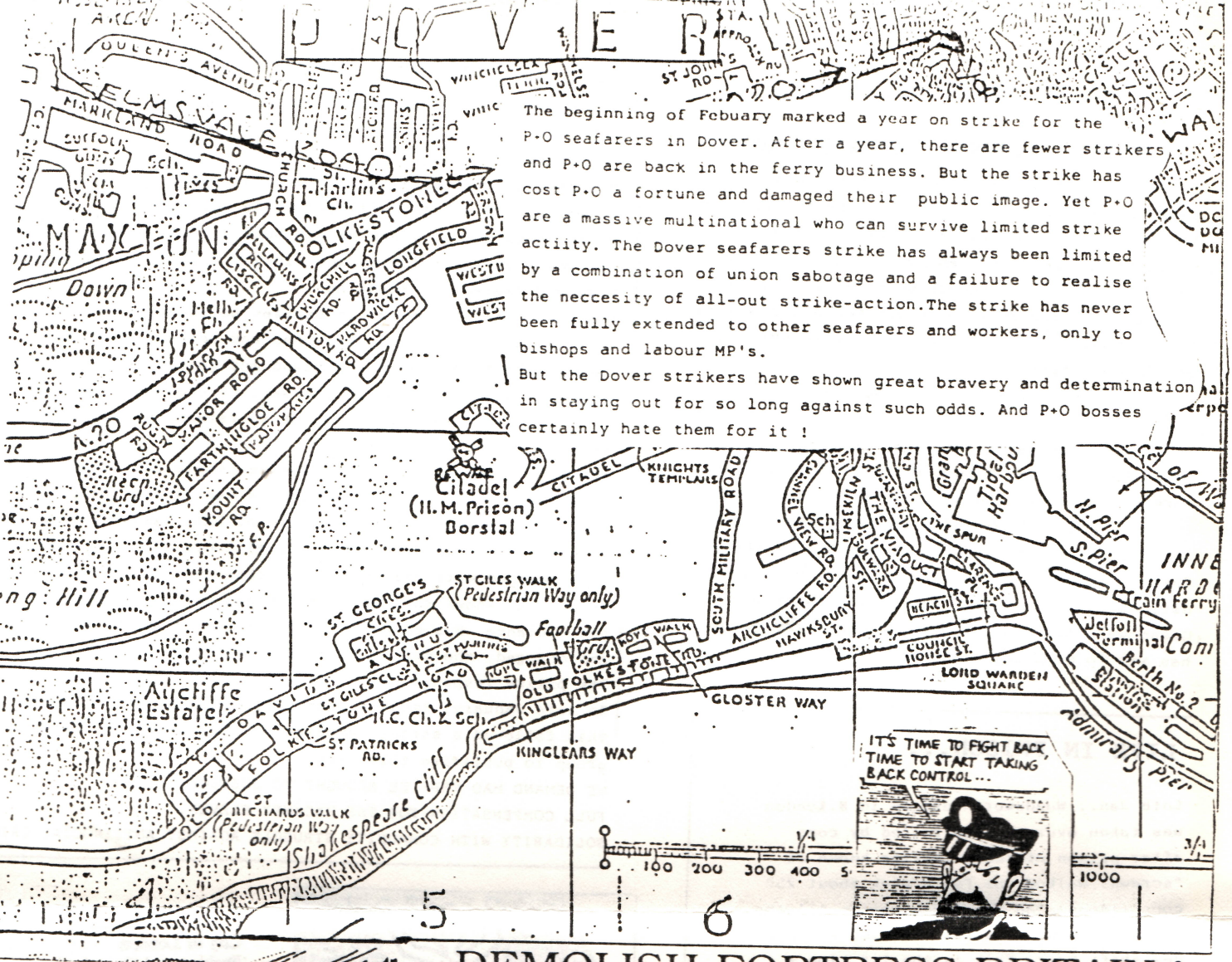
COMMUNITY CENTRE

6A RECTORY RD, STOKE NEWINGTON, N.16.
OPEN 11 Am - 6Pm TUES - SAT INCLUSIVE.
CLOSED ON 21ST. DEC.

LEE HOUSE

Lee house is a big squatted buil ding in Hackney (north London). In JaNUary it opned as a squatters centre, and houses a caf, bookshop, printshop and several people.

RIGHT ON !



The beginning of Febuary marked a year on strike for the P+O seafarers in Dover. After a year, there are fewer strikers and P+O are back in the ferry business. But the strike has cost P+O a fortune and damaged their public image. Yet P+O are a massive multinational who can survive limited strike actiity. The Dover seafarers strike has always been limited by a combination of union sabotage and a failure to realise the neccesity of all-out strike-action. The strike has never been fully extended to other seafarers and workers, only to bishops and labour MP's.

But the Dover strikers have shown great bravery and determination in staying out for so long against such odds. And P+O bosses certainly hate them for it !

DEMOLISH FORTRESS BRITAIN !

At dawn on Wednesday 18th January police sledgehammered their way into the Church of the Ascension in Manchester and arrested Viraj Mendis. Viraj had spent two years in sanctuary attempting to avoid being deported; 48 hours after his arrest he had been expelled from Britain, put on a plane to Sri Lanka and an uncertain future.

From the publicity this case received you might think that all this was an unusual occurrence -- in fact last year 700 people were deported from the UK. The only difference was that a campaign had made Viraj Mendis virtually into a household name and won him considerable support, as was shown by the fact that 2000 people marched to Manchester police-station on the night of his arrest.

Viraj's deportation does however signal the start of a further acceleration in the harassment of "immigrants" in Britain. Having made an example of Viraj – himself an anti-deportation activist -- thousands of others now face being dragged from their beds and put on planes to the other side of the world. For some this could mean a return to arrest, torture and death in "their" native country; for the "lucky" ones the psychological torture of being forcibly separated from their friends, family and chosen home.

"GO OUT AND WHACK THEM"

Those waiting for the knock on the door include Kabul Khan, camping in a Birmingham mosque with his family after escaping from immigration officials who want to deport him to Pakistan. They include the 50 or so people hiding in a network of safe-houses run by the "Underground Railway" of helpers. They include 8000 would-be refugees waiting in Britain and up to 250,000 people labelled by the State as "illegal immigrants". According to a source within the immigration service, *"Everything had to wait until Mendis was out of the country. Now the word is to go out and whack them. It is going to be like Mendis – snatched and deported within 48 hours."* (The Observer, 22/1/89). Anyone harbouring "illegals" could face 6 months in jail or a £2,000 fine.

The immigration authorities share computer records with the police, and their job is obviously being made much easier by the general increase in State surveillance and information gathering. For instance, the Poll Tax registration process will give the State a comprehensive list of exactly who lives at what address. Benefit claimants have to produce ID at Social Security offices if they or any members of their family have come to live in the UK in the past 5 years. Immigration offices have unlimited powers of detention without trial, and those not immediately deported may be kept in detention centres such as Harmondsworth (near Heathrow) and Latchmere House in Richmond (where detainees are locked in their cells for 18 out of 24 hours).

A CLIMATE OF FEAR

The immigration crackdown is calculated to create a climate of fear amongst those without the correct passport. Working on the fringe of the economy in sweatshops, building sites etc., run by both black and white bosses, people know that to draw attention to themselves would only invite further trouble. Complain too loudly and deportation is only a phone-call away.

Immigration controls in general are used in an attempt to isolate black people from the rest of the working class. Controls define immigrants as a "problem" which needs to be "regulated", and in Britain and elsewhere "immigrant" is used to mean "black", and all black people are treated as immigrants. By encouraging racism our rulers hope to stop the struggles of one section of our class (e.g. the inner city riots where young black people played a leading rôle) from spreading to the rest of us.

Furthermore by accusing immigrants of "swamping" Britain (as Thatcher did in 1979), or of being "a burden on the welfare State", they hope to reinforce a British national identity, along with a loyalist working class who believe they share a common interest with their exploiters in defence of national culture and the national economy. This is the old myth of us all being in the same boat.

FORTRESS EUROPE

All of this is not due simply to "nasty Tories". Labour governments have acted in exactly the same way, rushing through the 1968 immigration Act, for instance, to keep Kenyan Asians out of the country. It's the same story too in the rest of the world -- witness the treatment of Turkish workers in West Germany, or North Africans in France, where a "Communist" Party-controlled local council sent in bulldozers to destroy immigrants' hostels. In Western Europe as a whole there are moves towards a common immigration policy for all countries, leading up to the erection of a *Fortress Europe* in 1992 that will be more difficult than ever to enter from outside.

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT FRONTIERS!

The State cynically distinguishes between genuine political refugees with a "well-founded fear of persecution" and illegal immigrants who have entered the country for economic or other reasons. This division between "worthy" and "unworthy" immigrants (or claimants, or AIDS victims...) has to be rejected outright. It is only in the twisted world, where humanity is imprisoned by the frontiers of nation-States, that somebody could be called upon to justify making their home on one part of the planet rather than another.

In deporting Viraj Mendis the State has demonstrated that it means business. Against the naked power of sledgehammers and dawn raids, prayers and petitions will be worse than useless. Instead we need to begin discussing ways of

From Red Mendis.

HOSPITAL for the HOMELESS.....

Homeless people have taken over an empty hospital in Kennington, South London. People from different groups and some who sleep rough under Embankment and Waterloo bridge moved in a few weeks ago. (There are 125,000 empty buildings in London, and 50,000+ homeless people). Soup kitchens are being run and there's plenty of room for people to stay. The occupation has attracted alot of media attention with camera crews dressed in suits arriving to film the "plight of the homeless", from America, Canada and Bulgaria.

The hospital had been empty for 4 years and was recently sold to some developer who lives in the Isle of Man. The people occupying the place intend

WELSH NATIONALISTS

BLITZ LONDON ESTATE AGENTS .

Just before Christmas a series of six arson attacks were made on estate agents in the posh area of West London. One of them was completely gutted. The Welsh group 'sons of Glendower' claimed responsibility saying these estate agents were selling Welsh cottages to rich English buyers for holiday homes. This pushes houseprices in Wales above what local people can afford.

It is not Known whether the group 'sons of Glendower' is on the right or left. Traditionally Welsh politics is on the left, especially in urban South Wales. Though Welsh nationalism is more conservative and is centred in rural North and West Wales. The confusion comes about because the activists are given vocal support by the fascist national front. The establishment Welsh nationalists are using this to say 'sons of Glendower' are fascist.Unfortunately the group has yet to make any statement on this..

LIFE IN PRISON...

Late Jan...Wandsworth prison in S.London was taken over and controlled by cops after prison officers (better known as "screws),walked out.For a week about 250 cops (+dogs) ran the whole prison.All the screws walked out after refusing to work new shift hours.This is the 1st time a prison [redacted] here has been run by cops since early this century.Prisoners resented the take over and many old scores were settled 2 prison governers were attacked,several cops as well,but there was a virtual news blackout on exactly what went on inside.The screws have now gone back to work,we don't care what concessions they might or might not have got. Of course the prison system stays the same. 51,000 are in british jails,the 2nd highest rate in europe behind _Turkey.Often 3 people share a cell and are locked in 23hrs a day. Hundreds of people are now being held in police stations around the country 'cos there's no more room in the jails.....

MAD MARK IS MAD! OFFICIAL!

The eleven North Londoners wrongly charged with kidnapping have now had all charges against them dropped.

The story is as follows --

Mad Mark a fanaticalactivist for many years in the anarchist animal rights and anti-fascist scene was asked to leave his girlfriends house, where he had been living. Because after two years of intimidation she finally told her friends that Mark had beaten and raped her.

Mad Mark later turned up in Devizes police station claiming to have been kidnapped, poisoned and beaten. He claimed twenty people had taken him bound and gagged from London to Salisbury Plain (a moor in the west of England). He was left tied to a tree and told not to return. He untied himself and went to nearby Devizes.

Mad Mark named to the police twelve people all local activists in the same area of North London. A week later the police raided ten houses silmultaneously at 7am. Twelve people were arrested and then questioned for 48 hours. Finally eleven were charged with kidnapping.All this was on the evidence of one man known to live in a fantasy world of paranoia and violence. His ex-girlfriend was one of those arrested and charged, she made a statement charging Mark with rape . The police response was, 'but thats just your word'.

In late January, 3months later, all charges were dropped. This followed a strong campaign by the Hackney 11 defence group to publicise this case.

WE DEMAND MAD MARK BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

FULL COMPENSATION FOR THE HACKNEY ELEVEN.

SOLIDARITY WITH COMMUNITY STRUGGLE AGAINST ANTI!SOCIAL CRIME.

SQUATTING IN LONDON....

The official figures for squatted council property in London from April 1988 show ---

-a total of 5568 squats;

-most squatting is in the poorest left-wing inner London boroughs, especially Southwark,Lambeth and Hackney.

-it still exists in tory boroughs such as Wandsworth and Westminster. The real total may be as much as double this figure because there is also much sqatting in non council property.

	Numbers
City of London	0
Barking and Dagenham	6
Barnet	0
Bexley	0
Brent	229
Bromley	7
Camden	340
Croydon	2
Ealing	79
Enfield	22
Greenwich	27
Hackney	953
Hammersmith and Fulham	143
Haringey	165
Harrow	0
Havering	0
Hillingdon	0
Hounslow	18
Islington	449
Kensington and Chelsea	6
Kingston upon Thames	8
Lambeth	1,170
Lewisham	163
Merton	18
Newham	52
Redbridge	7
Richmond upon Thames	5
Southwark	1,672
Sutton	0
Tower Hamlets	426
Waltham Forest	48
Wandsworth	65
Westminster	98